(a) whether any targets were fixed by Government for crude production in the country during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details of respective targets fixed for each of the oil producing companies;

(c) the details of actual production achieved by each of the companies during the said period; and

(d) the details of additional capital investment made by these companies in the areas of oil exploration and production during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The two National Oil Companies, viz., Oil and natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) as well as the Private Companies/ Joint Ventures (Pvt./JVs) are engaged in oil exploration and production in the country. The targets/projection for oil production by these companies and the actual production during 2005-06 are as follows:—

[In million metric tonnes(MMT)]

	Target/Projection	Actual
ONGC	26.614	24.406
OIL	3.3	3.23
Pvt. Cos./JVs	4.65	4.55

(d) During the period 2005-06, the investments made by ONGC and OIL in exploration and production activities were Rs. 9,874 crore and Rs. 898 crore respectively. The Pvt. Cos./JVs made an investment of US$ 389 million (Rs. 1,750 crore) for exploration and development in their producing fields, during this period.

Fixation of Gas Price

†1583. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Administrative Price System is still being used to fix the consumer sale price of gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons for observing the above practice by Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on the basis of the above practice the price of gas has been raised upto 20 per cent in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The gas produced from the existing fields of ONGC and OIL, given to them on nomination basis, is covered under the Administered Pricing Mechanism and the Government fixes the price of this gas. APM gas is being supplied to the priority sectors, viz., Power and fertilizer sectors; small scale consumers with allocation upto 0.05 MMSCMD; and specific end users committed under the court orders. The remaining non-APM gas is supplied to different consumers at market determined prices.

(c) and (d) The gas pricing order of 20.6.05, which revised the APM gas price effective 1.7.05, envisages that the APM gas price for consumers other than the power and fertilizer sectors would be pogressively increased over the next 3 to 5 years to reflect the market price. In line with this decision, APM gas price for such consumers was increased by 20% from Rs. 3200/thousand standard cubic metre (MSCM) to Rs. 3840/ MSCM w.e.f 06.06.2006. For such consumers in the North-Eastern region, the price was increased from Rs. 1920/MSCM to Rs. 2304/MSCM w.e.f 06.06.2006.

Empowerment of Oil Companies to Fix Oil Prices

†1584. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of Question was received in Hindi.